

Referring nouns in name-informing quotation: A copula-based approach

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Problem



In India, a Big Mac is called a Maharajah Mac.

*In India, a Big Mac is called “**a** Maharajah Mac”.*

*In India, a Big Mac is called “**M**aharajah Mac”.*

The Maharaja Mac





Quotations demonstrating linguistic shapes usually do not contain an article

“Sofa” has four letters.

**A “sofa” has four letters.*

Others, however, do

A couch is also referred as “sofa” / a “sofa”.

The phenomenon is called “sun halo” / a “sun halo”.

Proposal w.r.t. the latter type

- **Referential hybrids** between demonstrated and denotational content
- Involves **copular relation**: *A couch is a sofa, The phenomenon is a sun halo*
- Copula entails a **referring interpretation** of the quoted nominal



- Characteristics of name-informing quotation (NIQ) and the copula
- Two types of copulas and their syntactic reflectors
- Empirical correlations in the use of articles, quotes and *also*
- A word on mixed and open quotation

NIQ = pure quotation



Name-informing quotation informs about shapes of conventionalized names

The purity of gold is referred to with the word “karat”.

Doctors call this disease “sepsis”.

NIQ is an instance of pure quotation

Pure quotation: rule-like, metalinguistic, permits *the word*

The word “karat” has two syllables.

The purity of gold is referred to with the word “karat”.

Semantics of NIQ



call contains three thematic arguments

Doctors call this disease “sepsis”.

x call y “ n ”

$\lambda y \lambda n \lambda x$ [CALL(x , y , NAME(“ n ”, y))]

[[y]] = [[n]]

Doctors call this disease “sepsis” and this disease is a sepsis.

#Doctors call this disease “sepsis” but this disease is not a sepsis.

Copular relation



x call y “ n ”

$\lambda P \lambda y \lambda n \lambda x$ [CALL(x , y , NAME(“ n ”, y) \wedge P(y , n))]

Doctors call this disease “sepsis”.

→ This disease is a sepsis.

The phenomenon is called “sun halo”.

→ The phenomenon is a sun halo.

Type 1: specificational copula



Specificational copulas introduce a variable (Mikkelsen 2011, Higgins 1979)

\approx *The y (that is a z) is an n*

n = value for that variable

x call y “ n ”

$\lambda P \lambda y \lambda n \lambda x$ [CALL(x , y , NAME(“ n ”, y) \wedge P(y , n))]

The phenomenon is called “sun halo”.

\rightarrow *The phenomenon is a sun halo.*

λy [PHENOMENON(y)] (*a sun halo*)

$\exists s$ [PHENOMENON(SUN HALO(s))]

Type 1: specificational copula



Postcopular nominals denote sorts (Hellen & Wolter 2008)

That is a clicker.

That is a sun halo.

Thus, the names' shape in a NIQ is derived from the name of a sort / kind (cf. Krifka et al. 1995)

Specificational copula and left dislocation



Subject in specificational sentences (Geist 2006, Mikkelsen 2005)

- predicative
- non-referential

Non-referential pronoun in left dislocation configurations

*Die Erscheinung, **das** ist ein Sonnenring.* ('the phenomenon that is a sun halo')

**Die Erscheinung, die ist ein Sonnenring.*

*Die Krankheit, **das** ist eine Sepsis.* ('the disease that is a sepsis')

**Die Krankheit, die ist eine Sepsis.*

Compare: *Die Kette, **die** ist ein Erbstück.* ('the necklace it is an heirloom')

Type 2: identity copula



The second type of NIQ does not allow left dislocation

A couch is also referred to as a “sofa”.

→ *A couch is a sofa.*

?? *Eine Couch, das / die ist ein Sofa.*

(‘a couch that / it is a sofa’)

Compare:

?? *Der Morgenstern, das ist der Abendstern.* (‘the morning star that is the evening star’)

?? *Superman, das ist Clark Kent.*

(‘superman that is clark kent’)

Type 2: identity copula



A couch is also referred to as a “sofa”.

→ *A couch is a sofa.*

Identity copula: The reference of the pre- and the post-copular nominal are the same (Higgings 1979)

$\lambda n \lambda y [y = n] (a \text{ couch}) (a \text{ sofa})$

$\exists s \exists c [\text{COUCH}(c) = \text{SOFA}(s)]$

Copular relation: identity and *also*



$\exists s \exists c$ [COUCH(c) = SOFA(s)]

Lexical reflector: *also*

Additive meaning (Szwedek 1991): A name for y exists which belongs to the set of names used for y

Puts the name's shape in focus and not its denotation

A couch is also called "sofa".

?*A couch is also a sofa.*

Obligatory with identity NIQ, optional with specificational NIQ

A couch is ??(also) referred to as a "sofa". (identity)

The phenomenon is (also) called a "sun halo". (specificational)

Henceforth, the embryo is referred to as a "fetus". (specificational !)



Quotes

Graphemic device: an expression is mentioned and not used with its standard denotation

“Sofa” has four letters.

“Sofa,” Max whispered.

The so-called “sofa” turned out to be an old, smelly futon.

A “sofa” is a piece of furniture for two or more people to sit on.

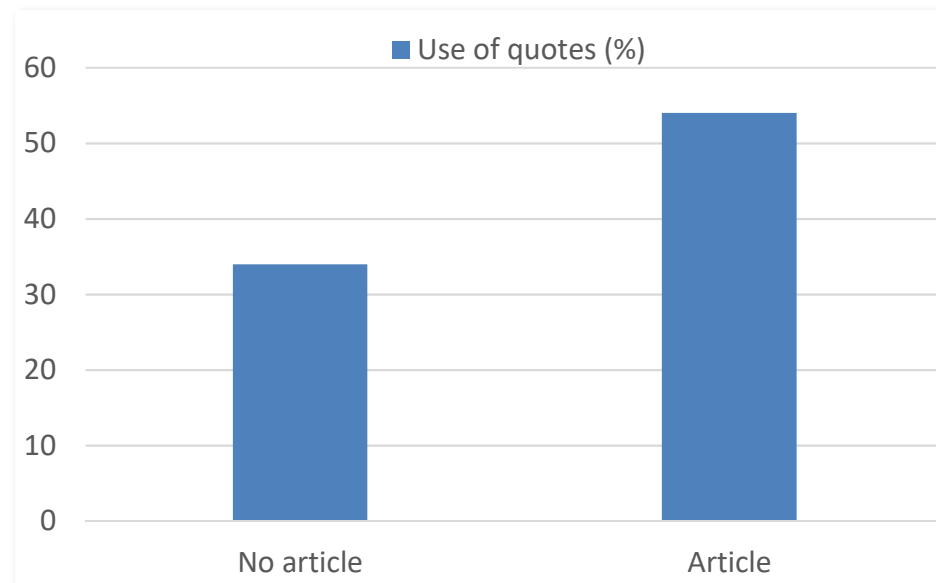
Objective

Does the use of an article in a NIQ correlate with the use of quotes?

Does the use of *auch* (‘also’) correlate with the use of quotes?



German data (DeReKo): Sentences containing the verbs *nennen* ('call') and *bezeichnen* ('refer to'), each N = 500



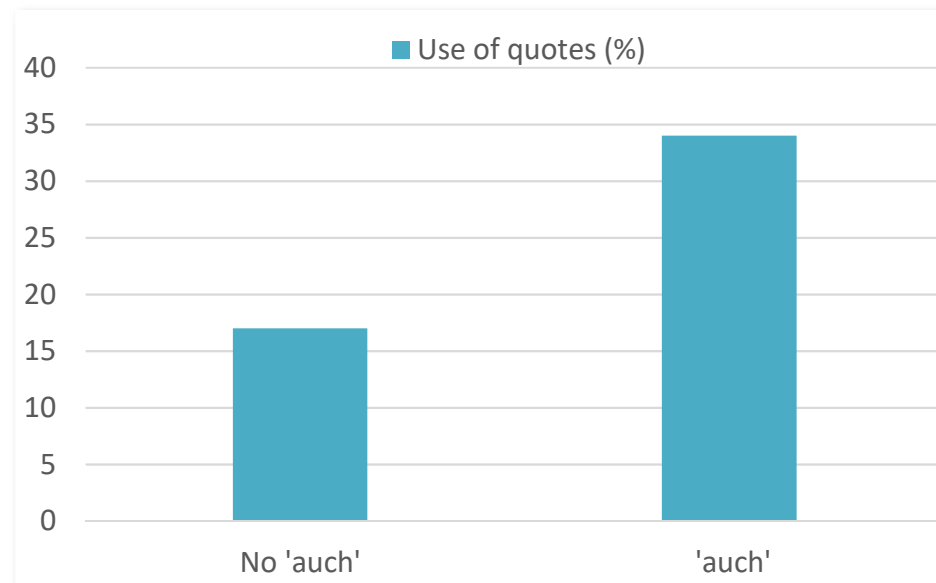
Quotational *nennen*
(N = 174)

- ▶ More quotes with nominals containing an article
- ▶ Reflector of a strategy to highlight the name's metalinguistic use

Corpus study 1: *auch*



German data (DeReKo): Sentences containing the verbs *nennen* ('call') and *bezeichnen* ('refer to'), each N = 500



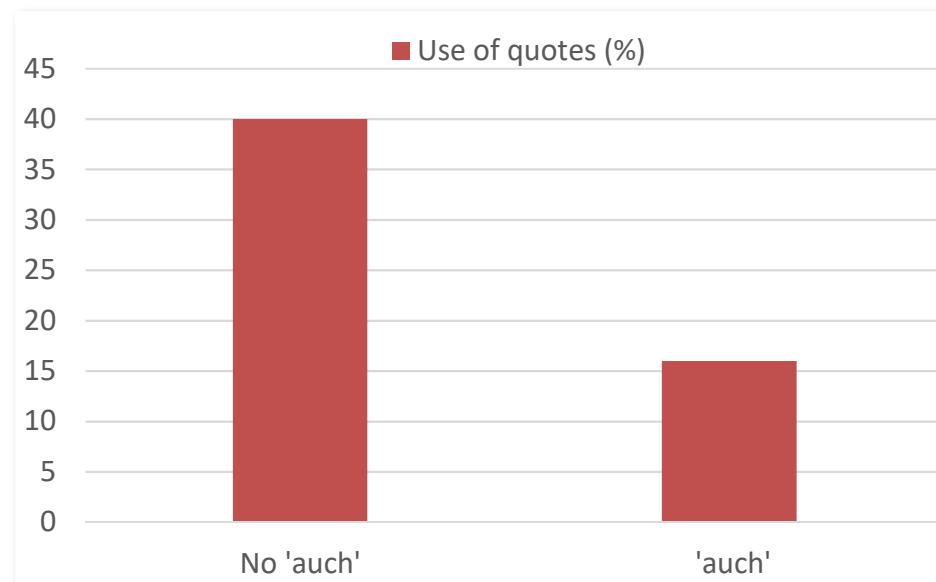
Quotational *nennen*
(N = 174)

- ▶ Reduced need to signal the name's metalinguistic use in the scope of *auch*?

Corpus study 1: *auch*



German data (DeReKo): Sentences containing the verbs *nennen* ('call') and *bezeichnen* ('refer to'), each N = 500



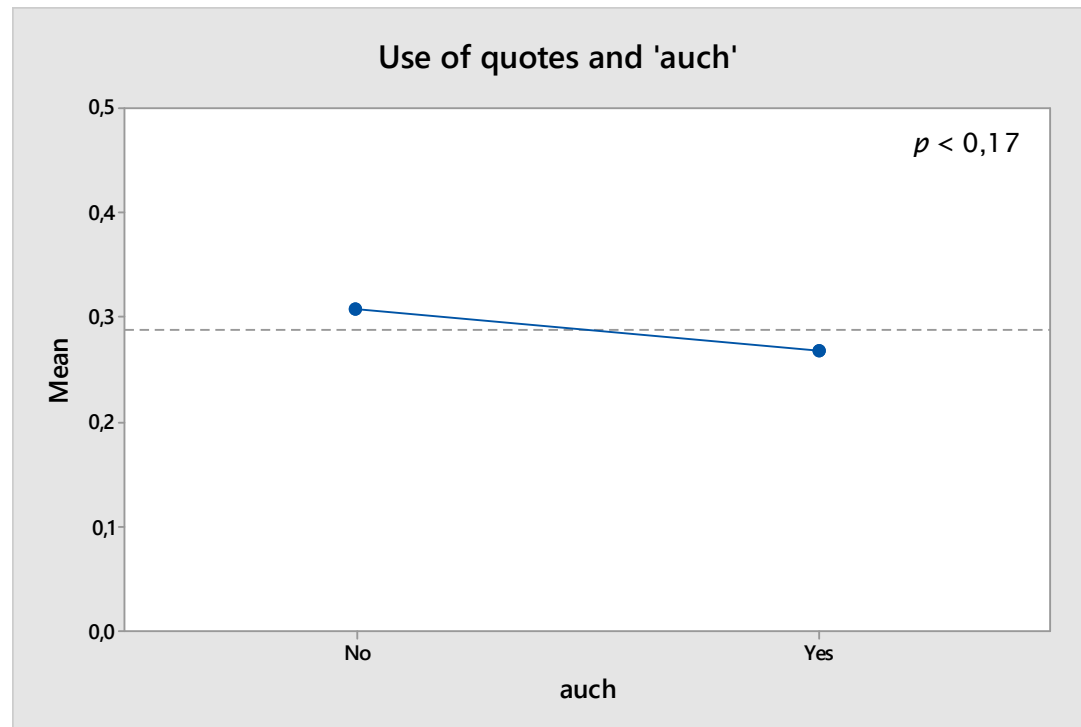
Quotational *bezeichnen*
(N = 163)

Corpus study 2: *Man nennt X (auch) N*



German data (DeReKo): Sentences with *nennen* ('call') involving or not *auch* ('also'), each N = 500

Construction: *Man nennt X (auch) N* ('one calls X (also) N')



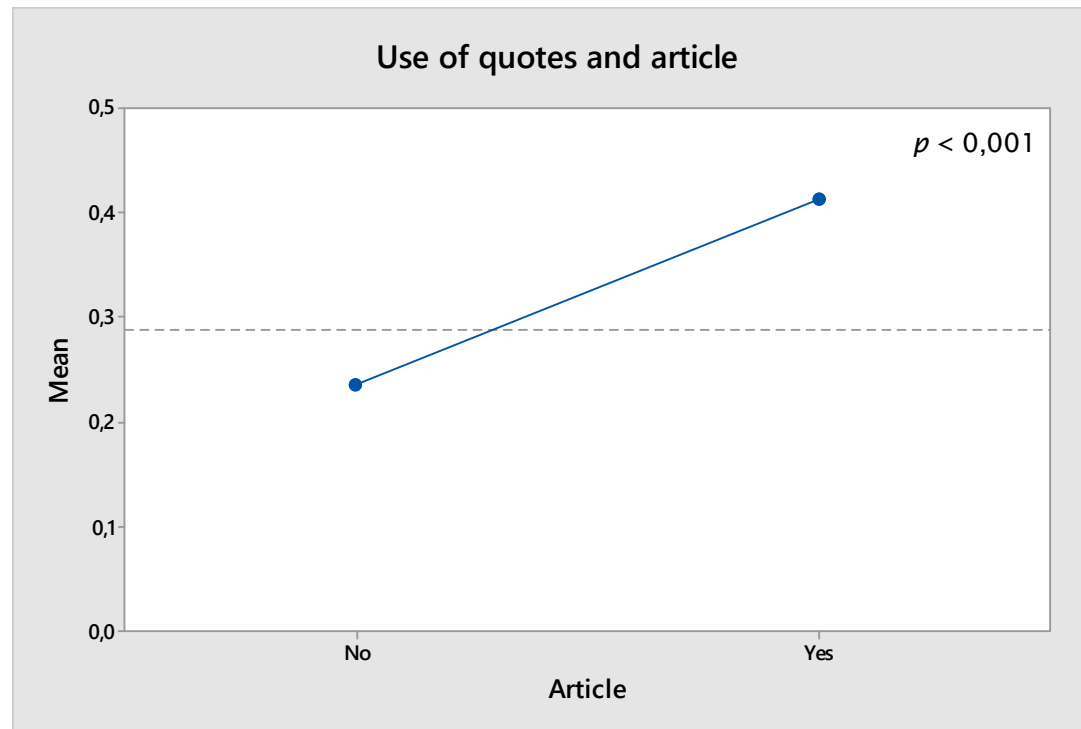
Quotational *nennen*
(N = 1000)

Corpus study 2: *Man nennt X (auch) N*



German data (DeReKo): Sentences with *nennen* ('call') involving or not *auch* ('also'), each N = 500

Construction: *Man nennt X (auch) N* ('one calls X (also) N')



Quotational *nennen*
(N = 1000)



- ▶ More quotes with NIQ involving an article
- ▶ Reflector of a strategy to highlight the name's metalinguistic use in NIQ with article

- ▶ *auch* is not a predictor for the use of quotes

A word on ... open quotation



The phenomenon is called a “sun halo”.

Isn't this **open** quotation à la Recanati (2001, 2008)?

A “fortnight” is a period of fourteen days. (= open quotation)

“Fortnight” is an unfamiliar word. (= closed / pure quotation)

No, it's not.

- ▶ Assertions with open quotations are not about words
- ▶ With open quotation, the demonstration results from the quotes alone and their meaning is implicated pragmatically
- ▶ With NIQ, the demonstration of the name is entailed compositionally by the predicate

A word on ... mixed quotation



The phenomenon is called a “sun halo”.

Isn't this **mixed** quotation (Cappelen & Lepore 1997, Maier 2007)

The manager praised the agency’s “stunning” work.

Well, maybe, but ...

- ▶ Mixed quotation usually in combinations of direct and indirect speech reports
- ▶ Omitting the quotes makes mixed quotation no quotation – this is different with NIQ

On the other hand ...

- ▶ The name in NIQ (w/ article) is indeed demonstrated and used denotationally at the same time

Conclusion



- ▶ Name-informing quotation is pure quotation
- ▶ Name-informing predicates introduce copular relation
- ▶ Two copula types: Specificational and identity
- ▶ Article in NIQ correlates with the use of quotes
- ▶ Open question: Is NIQ w/ article an instance of mixed quotation?

Thank you.

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